

March 9, 2005

Dear Mr. Ellington,

Thank you so very much for bringing Chess Tutors to Cowan Avenue Elementary. It has been a great pleasure having you come to my classroom, as well as the other classrooms here at Cowan Avenue Elementary and teach beginning and advanced chess to our students. Watching the enthusiasm of my students as they learn to play chess, and gain all the insightful knowledge that you also provide, is such a delight.

As a teacher, I have observed many different instructors work with children-some excellent, other not so well qualified. The Chess Tutors set a new standard for excellence. They are knowledgeable, organized, dynamic presenters. The songs that they use to teach the game of Chess make this complicated game fun and easy. After watching the chess tutors teach my fifth grade class last year, I was surprised to see that my first grade class this year caught on to the game just as easily as the fifth graders. This is credited to the excellent teaching and classroom management of the Chess tutors.

The lessons learned in chess tutors are not limited to chess tutor time. Recently, my class went on a field trip. As students were all talking on the bus, the bus driver got onto the bus and began to give instructions. Noticing that the students were talking over the bus driver, one of my students yelled out "flat tire." The class immediately went silent. It is these techniques of listening and attending to instruction that students will also carry with them forever.

Again, thank you so very much for working with all of our students at Cowan. I was thrilled when you returned to Cowan at the beginning of this year and continued the Chess Tutors program throughout the year. I look forward to watching the Cowan students grow in their knowledge of chess and depth of thinking that this knowledge encourages.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Sullivan
Cowan Avenue Elementary, Teacher